

COUNTRY	Eastern Germany	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC Maneuvers in the Area North of Rathenow			
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EVALUATION		PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT 6 to 19 September 1952			
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED	10 October 1952
REFERENCES			
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS			
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1. Prior to 19 September 1952, the majority of the troops from Rathenow were still absent from the post. The barracks installations were reconditioned. The rotation strengths were: 30 officers and 180 EM in the Infanterie Kaserne; 25 officers and 180 EM in the Pionier Kaserne; and 27 officers and about 200 EM in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne. Five 122-mm field howitzers with 5 prime movers [redacted] were parked in the Kraftfahrer Kaserne.

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2. During the period from 16 to 19 September, maneuvers were held in the Neustadt/Dosse (N 53/Z 13)-Rhinow (N 53/Z 17)-Spaatz (N 53/Z 06)-Schoenholz (N 53/Z 16)-Elslake (N 53/Z 16) area which was cordoned off. On 16 September, 6 heavy AA guns were emplaced along the Elslake-Spaatz road, with about 30 soldiers in dark coveralls standing nearby. There was intensive flying of single-engine jet fighters in the training area. Heavy artillery fire was heard. Four biplanes were parked in the meadows south of the Hohennauen Canal east of the Havel River. Intensive truck traffic was noticed in the training area during the period under observation. [redacted]

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[redacted] Light T-34 tanks were refueled at the fuel pump on Nordbahnhof, Rathenow, at 6:30 a.m. on 19 September. Source assumed that the tanks were to be loaded. At 4:30 p.m., 2 JS-3 tanks, 5 T-34s and 2 caterpillar vehicles were loaded at the Nordbahnhof.

3. At 4 p.m. on 16 September, 26 aircraft, each making 2 vapor trails, were flying in formation toward Friesack from a westerly direction. [redacted] the aircraft turned toward a southeasterly direction. Between 7:30 and 10:30 a.m. on 17 September, aircraft launched low-level attacks toward Rathenow-Semlin from a southeasterly direction, with 3 or 4 MiG-15s each attacking in 3 or 4 waves. Coming from an easterly direction, 24 to 30 IL-10s circled over the training area in three waves. Ten to 15 single-engine fighters circled in this area individually. A U-2 flew over the training area for about one hour. [redacted] several hundred trucks, some with [redacted]

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guns, and about 10 tanks passed through Marchhausen from 17 to 18 September.

[REDACTED]

* At 5:30 p.m. on 19 September, 1 field kitchen, 12 rocket launchers and trucks were loaded on 1 to 10 boxcars and 36 flatcars at the Premnitz railroad station. Waiting to be loaded were about 130 trucks [REDACTED] 32 rocket launchers, 3 field kitchens and 30 to 40 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. The shipment was allegedly bound for Rathenow. **

4. [REDACTED] mixed units launched practice attacks toward a westerly direction in the Rathenow-Rhinow area after 15 September. Troops constructed a bridge near Albertsheim north of Rathenow. There was intensive flying activity over the training area during the exercise. The Rathenow-Rhinow road was blocked. *

Comment. The field exercises which were conducted in the area north of Rathenow were previously reported [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] units of the German Wehrmacht Army participating included elements of the 1st Nazi Div and [REDACTED]

The maneuver, a joint army-air force exercise, appeared to have had as its mission an attack toward the west, with the main point of penetration at a Havel River crossing and combat practices in terrain which included water obstacles. The tanks loaded on 19 September 1952, which

probably belonged to a unit of the 1st Nazi Div which, [REDACTED] returned to Doeberitz. The loading confirms the completion of the training period reported in paragraph 2.

Comment. The loading of elements of the 25th RL Brig was confirmed by [REDACTED] figures approximating those in the present report. The T/E of the brigade which previously was assumed to have only 32 guns is actually higher. It is concluded from recent information that the brigade has two regiments with 32 artillery pieces each rather than four battalions.

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